Graduate Information Session
Masters of Public Administration
Masters of Public Policy

Mark Reed, Graduate Academic Advisor
Dr. Stuart Bretschneider, MPA/MPP Program Director
Dr. George Pettit, Coordinator, Marvin Andrews Fellowship Program
Why earn an MPA / MPP?
Focus of ASU’s Master of Public Administration (MPA)

- Focus is on public policy issues in the government or nonprofit sectors.

- **Manage** people, projects and money in a wide variety of organizations including nonprofits, government agencies, international NGOs, social enterprises, and private businesses.

- **Identify** and **solve** problems of democratic governance in public administration at the local, state and national levels. **Create** and **manage** programs and services.

- **Serve** the public through their work in neighborhoods and communities, in urban regions, nationally, and globally.

- **Specific skills:** Problem analysis and solving, coordination, collaboration, communication, leadership, management, and program evaluation.
Focus of Master of Public Policy (MPP)

- Create policy analysts who can **evaluate** a problem, **analyze** and **interpret** data, and take creative action.
- Emphasizes policy analysis and design, statistics, research methodology, research ethics, microeconomics, public finance, and management of public organizations.
- Learn analytical techniques and conceptual frameworks for understanding policy issues.
- Identifying potential solutions and applying analytical skills to real-world issues—especially relating to the needs of cities/counties in the central Arizona area.
- Gain an understanding of policies related to poverty, housing, education, the environment, science and technology, sustainability, emergency management, and public safety.
- **Skills:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Defining problems</th>
<th>Understanding the dimensions of complex problems</th>
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<tr>
<td>Assessing needs</td>
<td>Developing research designs and models</td>
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<td>Relating theory to practice</td>
<td>Interpreting data</td>
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<tr>
<td>Understanding research findings</td>
<td>Understanding policy reports</td>
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<td>Interpreting issues and evidence</td>
<td>Evaluating proposed policy solutions</td>
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<td><strong>MPA</strong></td>
<td><strong>MPP</strong></td>
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<td>Create and Implement Programs</td>
<td>Research Intensive</td>
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<td>Involves social interaction and group management</td>
<td>Statistics-heavy, focus on analysis</td>
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<td>Prepares graduates for leadership roles</td>
<td>Prepares graduates for policy expert and study roles</td>
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<td>Program management</td>
<td>Program and policy analysis</td>
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“Today’s public and nonprofit sectors need leaders who are ready to innovate, address challenges, and create meaningful change in public policy. To be effective, you must be skilled in both policy analysis and managerial know-how.”

“Graduates need skills, perspectives, and nuanced understanding of analysis of public policy to be effective leaders in solving public problems.”

“An MPA is like an MBA for people who are passionate about enacting social change.”
"The lessons learned about the day-to-day workings of the federal government have been invaluable."

"I learned economics and budgeting from my professors. I am now able to make arguments for the sorts of programs necessary to do my job well."

"My studies in public finance, public policy and organizational theory provided me with the ability to understand the bigger picture. I studied grant-writing during my MPA program and have written grants and contributed to grant-writing and program design/development in all of my positions."

"There have been countless times where the tools I acquired through the MPP helped me to work through challenging projects and difficult situations. I have also been portrayed as a policy resource within my department."
Career Progression of alumni

- Research Associate → Manager of Institutional Research
- Program Coordinator → Operations Director
- Account Executive → Foundation Director
- Legislative Assistant → Policy Director
- Project Coordinator → Senior Housing Developer
- Sales Coordinator → Policy Project Associate
- Ecologist → AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow
- AmeriCorps Member → Project Coordinator
The School of Public Affairs is one of the nation’s premiere graduate schools in public administration and policy.

According to the *U.S. News and World Report*, the School is ranked 13th overall in the nation.

The School is highly ranked in a number specialty areas:
- 4th City Management & Urban Policy
- 5th Information Technology
- 7th Environmental Policy & Management
- 9th Nonprofit Management
- 11th Public Finance & Budgeting
- 11th Public Management
School of Public Affairs graduate programs

- Master’s degrees
  - Master of Public Administration (MPA)
  - Master of Public Policy (MPP)

- Concurrent Master’s degrees – two Masters degrees, share 20% of course work
  - American Indian Studies (Tribal Leadership and Governance) - MPA
  - Criminology and Criminal Justice – MPA and MPP
  - Social Work – Standard Program - MPA
  - Sustainable Solutions – MPA and MPP
  - Urban and Environmental Planning – MPA and MPP
  - Create your own concurrent degree

- Certificates – 15 credit hours each
  - Policy Informatics
  - Participatory Governance
  - Emergency Management
  - Public Administration
  - Public Policy
Who We Are: Faculty

- 29 full-time tenured or tenure-track faculty
- Expertise in a diverse range of fields
  - Environmental Policy: Nicole Darnall & Lily Hsueh
  - Science & Technology Policy: Barry Bozeman & Elizabeth Corley
  - Public Budgeting & Finance: Gerald Miller & Akheil Singla
  - Urban Policy: Joanna Lucio, David Swindell & Karen Mossberger
  - Social Policy: Chris Herbst, Spiro Maroulis & Yushim Kim
  - Public Management: Justin Stritch & Stu Bretschneider

- 11 national and international awards since 2011
  - Best Dissertation: Justin Stritch & Chris Herbst
  - 2014 NASPAA/ASPA Distinguished Researcher: Barry Bozeman
  - 2011 Aaron B. Wildavsky (lifetime achievement): Gerald Miller
Who We Are: Students

- MPA program: 209 students
- MPP program: 45 students
- Student characteristics:
  - 50% Female
  - 50% Male
  - 35% International
MPA Curriculum

- 42 credit hours
  - 27 credit hours in the core curriculum
  - 15 credit hours in electives

- Core curriculum
  - PAF 501 Public Service Research I
  - PAF 502 Public Service Research II
  - PAF 503 Public Affairs
  - PAF 504 Microeconomics of the Public Sector I
  - PAF 505 Public Policy Analysis
  - PAF 506 Public Budgeting & Finance
  - PAF 507 Public Human Resource Management
  - PAF 508 Organization Behavior
  - PAF 509 Public Affairs Capstone
MPP Curriculum

- 42 credit hours
  - 30 credit hours in the core curriculum
  - 12 credit hours in electives
- Core curriculum
  - PAF 501 Public Service Research I
  - PAF 502 Public Service Research II
  - PAF 504 Microeconomics of the Public Sector I
  - PAF 505 Public Policy Analysis
  - PAF 540 Advanced Policy Analysis
  - PAF 541 Program Evaluation
  - PAF 570 Microeconomics of the Public Sector II
  - PAF 573 Applied Econometrics
  - PAF 574 Diversity, Ethics & Leading Public Change
  - PAF 509 Public Affairs Capstone
Tailoring Your Program

- MPA concentration areas
  - Nonprofit Administration
  - Urban Management
  - Emergency Management
  - Public Finance

- MPP concentration areas
  - Policy Informatics
  - Science and Technology Policy
  - Environmental Policy
  - Urban Policy

- Create your own concentration
Certificate Programs

- 15 credit hour program of study
- Two ways to complete a certificate program
  - Stand-alone
  - While enrolled in a graduate degree program
- Certificate programs include
  - Emergency Management
  - Participatory Governance
  - Policy Informatics
  - Public Administration
  - Public Policy
Program Prerequisites

- Requirements for the MPA and MPP programs
  - American Government (at any time in the past)
  - Statistics (at any time in the past)
- Requirements for the certificate programs
  - No prerequisites except a Bachelors degree with a 3.0 or higher GPA
Concurrent Degrees

- Concurrent MPA degree options
  - Social Work
  - Criminology and Criminal Justice
  - Sustainability
  - Urban and Environmental Planning
  - American Indian Studies

- Concurrent MPP degree options
  - Criminology and Criminal Justice
  - Sustainability
  - Urban and Environmental Planning

- Create your own concurrent degree program
Modes of Instruction

- Flexibility in terms of **when** courses are offered
  - Fall, Spring and Summer sessions
  - In the evening and on the weekend

- Flexibility in terms of **how** courses are offered
  - In person
  - Online
  - Weekend Intensives
Cost of Attendance

- For the most current cost of attendance, please see https://students.asu.edu/costs

- Funding options
  - FAFSA
  - SPA grants
  - Scholarships (including SPA) and other resources: spa.asu.edu/content/scholarships
Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis

- The earlier you apply, the sooner you receive a decision

Overview of admission criteria

- Grade point average of 3.0 or higher for the last two years of coursework leading to a bachelor’s degree
- GRE scores on the verbal, quantitative and analytical components
  - LSAT/GMAT scores can be substituted
  - GRE waived for (1) Previous Masters; (2) undergrad GPA of 3.4 or higher (last 60 credits) or (3) if admitted into another graduate program in the College of Public Service and Community Solutions
How to Apply

- An official ASU Graduate application and application fee
  - Please visit: [http://graduate.asu.edu](http://graduate.asu.edu)

- Official transcripts from the undergraduate college/university in which you received your Bachelors. Also transcripts from colleges/universities in which you took an American Government and/or statistics courses, or in which you earned a Masters degree.
How to Apply

- Requirements from the School of Public Affairs
  - Three letters of recommendation
    - From faculty (current or former) or work/volunteer supervisors
    - There is no form required for the letters of recommendation
    - On the graduate application, you will list the names and email addresses of your recommenders and they will be contacted directly by ASU. Recommenders will then submit letters via an online form.

- Written statement of education and career goals
  - Used, in part, to evaluate the applicant’s writing ability
  - Statement should be one to two pages in length
Questions?

- Mark Reed
  - mbreed@asu.edu
  - (602) 496-0450
  - Office location is UCENT 400, Downtown Phoenix Campus
  - Read more at www.spa.asu.edu